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Remarks

Claims 13-16, 19-20, and 25 are now pending in the application. Claims 13 and 25 have been amended herein. Claims 17-18 have been canceled herein without prejudice. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indicated allowability of claim 18. Independent claims 13 and 25 have been amended herein to include all limitations recited in claims 17 and 18. Therefore, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-663-1100, ext. 245.

Respectfully submitted, BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

Haruo Yawata

Limited Recognition No. L0109

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